

Burton Plantation Management Committee
 Meeting held on 19th January 2006 at 38 Springfield Close

Present: Derek Brewis (DB) Paul Rushforth (PR) Margaret Pickford (MP)
 Paul Sutton (PAS) Cath Thomson (CT) Diane Edmonds (DE) Linda Sutton (LJS) – Minute Taker

Item	Comments	Action
1	Apologies None	
2	Election of Officers Chair – Margaret Pickford (informed the committee she was to be Chair) Secretary – Paul Sutton Treasurer – Derek Brewis	
3	BPMC Constitution It was agreed that a Constitution would be drafted and, to assist, reference will be made to the existing Constitutions for the Playing Field and the Village Hall and a draft constitution supplied by Leicestershire Environmental Centre. The Aims and Objectives as laid out in the Agenda were accepted by all members of the committee and are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ To protect the woodland for future use by all the Parish as a woodland○ To try to leave the woodland as close to its current state as possible○ To provide educational opportunities for the local school○ To be a haven for local wildlife It was decided not to include a Mission Statement.	CT DE PAS
4	Update on Current Position Paul informed the meeting of the following: <i>A report following the visit to the woodland by Francoise Scire and Chris Buckingham: The woodland, as we know, consists mainly of Sycamore and will need very careful management over quite a long period of time. It is difficult to manage in that if we remove too many sycamores the canopy will be opened up and wind damage will occur as most of the trees are tall and spindly. However if we want to introduce other more desirable tree species some thinning is required or else there will not be enough light to encourage strong tree growth of the introduced species.</i> <i>The recommendation is:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Firstly remove the standing dead/dying trees along the paths as soon as possible, in order that they pose no threat to visitors. This will require us to mark the required trees to enable us to get a quote for felling.○ The species around the pond require identification and if they are also Sycamore we can coppice some (the recommendation is either 1 in 2 or 1 in 3) to give protection for wildlife but allow more light to the ponds.○ There are lots of long lengths of trees lying scattered around the woodland and it is more beneficial to wildlife to have piles of logs, as well as giving a tidier appearance. We therefore will need some good volunteer power to be able to lift and move them. This should be carried out prior to February or in September, to avoid nesting times.○ Shrubbery: The Snowberry, in abundance in part of the woodland, needs tackling preferably by digging out as much root as possible to prevent it from spreading further. This will need keeping an eye on in subsequent years to grub out any new growth.○ For more info see sheets from the English Nature 'Shrub Management Handbook', particularly Sycamore, Ivy & snowberry sheets..	

	<p>Wildlife area at Burton School <i>Derek Mullen, head of the school, is keen to open up their wildlife area, which is currently fenced off, for the children to be able to use more freely.</i> <i>There is currently a very anaerobic pond which has overhanging branches from the trees in the woodland. They would like to have the offending trees coppiced to allow the light in.</i></p> <p>LJS will contact Derek Mullen to see if the school will be willing to make a contribution to the cost of coppicing the trees in question.</p>	LJS
5	Outstanding Issues	
(a)	Signage Quotes will be obtained for two signs, one at each entrance to the woodland. The design is to include the map of the woodland undertaken by Janet Stockley and appropriate wording, to also include something along the lines of 'please clean up after your dog'. Recycled products were highly favoured and CT is to explore the possibilities and obtain quotations.	CT
(b)	Photocards It was agreed that the two cards chosen at last year's fete will be printed and sold in packs as blank cards. It was further suggested that PAS take month by month photographs to produce a calendar for 2007. We need to advertise well in advance that these will be available for sale. DE agreed to look at printers and costs.	PAS DE
(c)	Nest Boxes The nest boxes were erected in the woodland on Saturday 14 th January. There are 7 Tit boxes, 2 open fronted and 3 Bat boxes. There are more to come when these are made. A letter of thanks is to go to Terry Smith for making 8 boxes and to Timothy Staples for making and donating a Tit box, also to Peter Shaw for donating a Bat box. The boxes will be cleaned out annually after nesting season.	LJS
(d)	Maintenance The woodland is to be 'tidied up' - the numerous scattered logs will be gathered into piles, wired together and left for the wildlife to enjoy and a start made on Snowberry clearance. The ponds will be lightly cleared to allow more light to the surface. Litter will also be removed. The BTCV have offered their services on Sunday, February 5 th . As the snowdrops will be through, care will be taken to only tidy areas without them and then look again at a further tidy in September after nesting. CT asked that the edges of the car park where it meets the woodland be cleared of vegetation, and this will be undertaken by the volunteer group. We will leaflet the 'Friends of the Wood' to alert them and a notice will go on the Village Hall notice board asking for further volunteers. The marking of the trees has been undertaken and two quotes obtained for felling/coppicing, one from Total Trees and Gardens for £1,250 and the other from Oakdale for £1,000. A further quote will be sought for comparison. Quotations will also be obtained for laying the hedge and infill planting. Total Trees are experienced in and sympathetic to wildlife areas and we had an impressive tour of the woodland, with lots of input on their part. The symbolic Oak sapling planted at the opening of the woodland by the Chairman of Leicestershire County Council will be removed and a stronger larger tree obtained for	BTCV and Village volunteers PAS/LJS LJS

	planting in its place. LJS to obtain a price from Naturescape for the purchase.	LJS
	PAS reported that the Newt Survey undertaken last year was unsuccessful due to pond debris and it is re-arranged for April 1 st 2006 at the agreed cost of £125. Neill Talbot of the Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust will undertake the survey.	
(e)	<p>Seating Area</p> <p>This wasn't decided but disabled access to a part of the wood is to be undertaken, subject to funding. This will be at the car park entrance where a 'dropped' kerb will be put in to allow access. It was suggested funding for this may be available from East Midlands Airport and this will be explored.</p>	PAS
6	<p>Funding</p> <p>Hazel Fish sent information on the English Woodland Grant Scheme and PAS will download this from the website. Other funding bodies will be approached to include the 'Ken Chamberlain Trust' and the HLF.</p> <p>PAS informed that Charnwood Borough Council had said we could approach them for more funding following the purchase. DE to follow this up.</p>	PAS DE
7	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>A profile will be kept of the woodland as it progresses for displays at fêtes</p> <p>Insertions will be put into the link regarding the woodland and its progress.</p> <p>If visitors to the woodland have anything they wish to report to the committee it was considered this could be done by handing in a note at the garage, rather than a contact phone number being given out. CT will ask the garage if this will be possible and it will be added to the link</p>	??? PAS CT
8	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Thursday, April 6th, 7.30 p.m. at the Pavilion</p>	ALL